

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/775,821

Examiner

Douglas Q. Tran

Applicant(s)

KONDO ET AL.

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/10/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-13.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 08 May 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

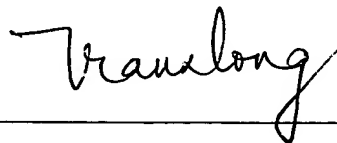
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____



Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-13 are allowed.

Claims 1, 7, and 10 are independent claims.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As to claim 1, the present invention from the application discloses an image output system in which the acquired main image data and the registered sub image data are printed out on the same medium, comprises the limitations of “an output unit according to the received print output request to print out the acquired main image data and the registered sub image data on the same medium; and a limitation unit limiting the printing out by the first output unit if the decision unit decides that the predetermined number of sub image data are not registered in the registration unit”.

As to claim 7, the present invention from the application discloses an image output system in which the acquired main image data and the registered sub image data are printed out on the same medium, comprises one of the limitations “an output unit according to the received print output request to print out the acquired main image data and the registered sub image data on the same medium; and a limitation unit limiting the printing out by the output unit if the decision unit decides that the printing out is out of the range of the information about limitation”.

As to claim 10, the present invention from the application discloses an image output system in which the acquired main image data and the registered sub image data are printed out

Art Unit: 2624

on the same medium, comprises one of the limitations “ an output unit according to the received print output request to print out the acquired main image data and the registered sub image data on the same medium; and a limitation unit limiting the printing out by the first output unit if the decision unit decides that the predetermined number is reached”.

The closest prior art, which are attached from Examiner's Remark below, such as Windel et al. (US Patent No. 5,991,409) discloses the number of printed letters with the respective, aforementioned setting of the advertising slogan regarding the cost center is registered in the postage meter machine for a later evaluation. The control code and run-length-coded frame data alternate with the window data in each data set in respective sub-memory areas. Their subsequent decoding to form combination numbers KOZ1, (and KOZ2) whose individual quantities are compared to the quantities openly printed in the franking image on the postal matter; and Stringa (US Patent No. 6,690,824) teaches the search can be performed over a limited area of the note, since the print of the serial number moves with respect to the drawing of the background only by a few millimeters extracts, for each character position registered on the difference image, the corresponding subimage of the model of the background: having been registered, said subimage would be precisely the portion of background on which the unknown character has been printed for each character position, combines the corresponding subimage of the model of the background (registered) with each of the models of the symbols.

However, the prior art such as Windel and Stringa, including an updated electronic text search, fails to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations from claims 1, 7 and 10 obvious.

Art Unit: 2624

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Examiner's Remark

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Windel et al. (US Patent No. 5,991,409) discloses the number of printed letters with the respective, aforementioned setting of the advertising slogan regarding the cost center is registered in the postage meter machine for a later evaluation. The control code and run-length-coded frame data alternate with the window data in each data set in respective sub-memory areas. Their subsequent decoding to form combination numbers KOZ1, (and KOZ2) whose individual quantities are compared to the quantities openly printed in the franking image on the postal matter.

Stringa (US Patent No. 6,690,824) discloses the search can be performed over a limited area of the note, since the print of the serial number moves with respect to the drawing of the background only by a few millimeters extracts, for each character position registered on the difference image, the corresponding subimage of the model of the background: having been registered, said subimage would be precisely the portion of background on which the unknown

Art Unit: 2624

character has been printed for each character position, combines the corresponding subimage of the model of the background (registered) with each of the models of the symbols.


Contact information

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas Q. Tran whose telephone number is (703) 305-4857 or E-mail address is douglas.tran@uspto.gov.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Douglas Q. Tran

Mar. 03, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tranlong", written in a cursive style.